

REMARKS

By the current amendment, Applicant corrects minor typographic and/or transcription errors that would result if the original claims were amended as indicated in the Examiner's Amendment dated March 28, 2005. In this regard, while Applicant's representative, Joshua M. Povsner, agreed to an Examiner's amendment in a telephone interview on March 16, 2005, the amendments shown in the Examiner's Amendment dated March 28, 2005 appear to be incomplete in comparison with the agreed amendments.

In particular, by the current amendment, Applicant corrects minor grammatical and punctuation errors in claims 1, 3, 9 and 15.

Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under 35 C.F.R. §1.312(a) since it does not require any additional search and/or examination on the part of the Office.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicant submits that entry of the herein-contained amendments is appropriate to ensure that the claims conform to a standard U.S. format and carry out the intent of the agreed-to Examiner's Amendment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendments contained herein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.312(a).

The changes introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather,

these amendments merely enhance, strengthen and reinforce the patentability of the claims previously indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that these amendments are proper to enter at the present time.

The above-amendments further do not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention. Thus, no new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P., the present amendments should be considered and their entry should be recommended by the Primary Examiner.


For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendments to the claims. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Additionally, Applicant notes that the term "from a" noted in the Examiner's Amendment does not appear in claim 15, line 11, and claim 15 (as pending before the Examiner's amendment) did not have a line 11. Accordingly, the change indicated in the Examiner's Amendment with respect to claim 15, line 11, could not be made in the manner indicated by the Examiner.

Except for the discrepancies noted herein, Applicant submits that the amendments shown in the Examiner's amendment correctly reflect the agreement reached in the above-noted telephone interview.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shinkichi IKEDA


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

April 18, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191